The following claims are presented for examination:

1. (previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving a first plurality of protocol data units at a first input of a protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node;

receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a metric of a queue in said first congestible node; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said first plurality of protocol data units based on said metric of said queue in said first congestible node.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a second plurality of protocol data units at a second input of said protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said second input are en route to a second congestible node;

receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a metric of a queue in said second congestible node; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said second plurality of protocol data units based on said metric of said queue in said second congestible node.

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4. (previously presented) A protocol-data-unit excisor comprising:

a first input for receiving a first plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node;

a second input for receiving a metric of a queue in said first congestible node; and

a processor for selectively dropping one or more of said first plurality of protocol data units based on said metric of said queue in said first congestible node.

5. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 4 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

6. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 4 further comprising:

a third input for receiving a second plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said third input are en route to a second congestible node;

a fourth input for receiving a metric of a queue in said second congestible node;

wherein said processor is also for selectively dropping one or more of said second plurality of protocol data units based on said metric of said queue in said second congestible node.

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7. (previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving a first plurality of protocol data units at a first input of a protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node;

estimating in said protocol-data-unit excisor a first metric of a first queue of protocol data units in said first congestible node based on said first plurality of protocol data units; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said first plurality of protocol data units en route to said first congestible node based on said first metric.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

receiving a second plurality of protocol data units at a second input of said protocol-data-unit excisor, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said second input are en route to a second congestible node;

estimating in said protocol-data-unit excisor a second metric of a second queue of protocol data units in said second congestible node based on said second plurality of protocol data units; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, a one or more of said second plurality of protocol data units en route to said second congestible node based on said second metric.

10. (previously presented) A protocol-data-unit excisor comprising:

a first input for receiving a first plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said first input are en route to a first congestible node; and

a processor for estimating a first metric of a first queue of protocol data units in said first congestible node based on said first plurality of protocol data units, and for selectively dropping one or more of said first plurality of protocol data units en route to said first congestible node based on said first metric.

11. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 10 wherein said processor for selectively dropping one or more protocol data units decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

12. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 10 further comprising:

a second input for receiving a second plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of the protocol data units received at said second input are en route to a second congestible node; and

a processor for estimating a second metric of a second queue of protocol data units in said second congestible node based on said second plurality of protocol data units, and for selectively dropping one or more of said second plurality of protocol data units en route to said second congestible node based on said second metric.